



JOIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER!

Dear Neighbors,

Yes, it's time to join or renew your membership to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, now in our 15th year of service to our diverse and exciting community. Dues are a meager \$15 a year, and you can either drop by the Center for a BHNC brochure

and membership form, or fill out the coupon below and mail it to us. Please also take a few minutes to complete the 1993 Bernal Agenda Form which will be the highlight of our annual meeting.

We're very proud of the services we've been able to provide in our neighborhood this past year,

including our growing senior and at-risk youth employment programs, our new gang prevention/youth outreach project, our organizing work focused on children, youth, and families, and our bi-monthly *New Bernal Journal* distributed throughout the neighborhood by many valued

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BHNC staff members: Top row, from left to right: Youth Workers Tanisha Johnson, Karina Cardona, Josephine Smedly, Mauricio Vela, Center Director, Helen Helfer, Executive Director, Jeffrey Bachman, Fiscal Manager, Kai Greene, Administrative Assistant. Center row: Daniel Flores, Youth Worker, Laura Dominguez, Youth Coordinator, Nic Griffin, Senior Activities Assistant, Vicki Victoria, Senior Program Director and NBJ Editor. Bottom row: Clo Dow, NIT-AMP Community Organizer, Mary Foy, Senior Program Assistant, and Senior Program Aides Margaret Smith, Vernon Taniel and Julia Tarrango.

It Ain't Over 'Til it's Over

Bernal Heights Continues Fight to Save the Bank

The fate of the Bernal Heights branch of Bank of America (BoFA) will be determined on March 11th of this year. This is the deadline for the community to have opened 1,000 new checking accounts in order for BoFA to consider the branch "profitable" enough to continue its operation at the 433 Cortland Avenue site. After several months of encouraging Bernal Heights residents to open accounts to retain this important community service, champions of the cause have met with a couple of hurdles during the race to save the bank.

"Our commercial areas in Bernal have been slowly improving over the past two years. Having a bank branch on Cortland Avenue is a critical component to our fragile but growing small business community," says Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) Executive Director, Helen Helfer, "Therefore, working closely with our Senior Program and the Cortland Merchants Association, we launched a campaign to save the Bernal Heights Bank of America branch and have engendered 550 new accounts - over half our goal."

In spite of this, on January 19th,

Fred Martin, Senior Vice President of BoFA's Government Relations, sent a letter to Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg stating that the Bernal Branch would be closed. The letter stated, "...we will be consolidating accounts at our Bernal Heights branch...we have notified branch employees of our plans and are beginning the process of notifying community leaders and elected officials."

This letter was written the same day that the BHNC, the Cortland Merchants Association and Bernal seniors met with Barbara DeSoer, Senior Vice President and District Manager for BoFA and Bernal Branch Manager Jacqueline Shaffer to discuss the last effort push to meet the 1,000 new checking accounts goal to keep the Bernal Branch open. Upon receiving a fax of the Martin letter from Achtenberg's office, BHNC's Helfer was livid, "How could this letter be sent if they're dealing in good faith?" Upon receiving a copy of Martin's letter, Helfer immediately contacted DeSoer and Shaffer, who were just as surprised and upset to hear about the decision to close

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Rec & Park Expands Services

Rehab of Playgrounds in Bernal Begin

by Mauricio E. Vela
Neighborhood Center Director/Community Organizer

In an ambitious plan to expand city wide services to San Francisco teens ages 11 to 18 years old, S.F. Rec. & Park will expand the teen center program to 11 additional sites. Each of the sites will have a particular focus/theme from Educational & Academic support to Gay & Lesbian youth support services. St. Mary's Rec Center located in Bernal Heights has been selected as one of these new teen centers. St. Mary's focus/theme will be physical fitness, nutrition education, and sports readiness including drills, exercise, and skills development. St. Mary's will also offer mid-

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United We Stand, Divided We Fall

Working together for the Children, Youth and Families of Bernal

By Clo Dow
BHNC Community Organizer

On January 11, 1993, 30 Bernal Heights residents and Service Providers, attended the 1st Children, Youth and Families Coalition Meeting. The purpose of this meeting was first and foremost, to allow those who were present an opportunity to meet each other and to discover the rich resources that exist within our community. Secondly, the purpose of the meeting was to find out who and what NIT-AMP (Neighborhoods-In-Transition-A-Multicultural-Partnership) is and to discuss how NIT-AMP and the people of Bernal could work together in

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People on the Hill



Bernal Heights resident, Julianne Malveaux.

Photo by Susan Noonan

From Journalist to Self-Described 'Hell-raiser,' Julianne Malveaux is a Woman of Her Words

A rich collection of African masks and sculptures are intermixed with numerous awards presented to Julianne Malveaux in the livingroom of her Kingston Street home. A gorgeous bronze by the famous black sculptor, Elizabeth Kaplan, adorns the mantle of her fireplace. "That was given to me as an award from the National Council of Negro Women in 1987." She proudly explains that it is given to "Black women who make things happen."

A very dynamic and expressive woman, Malveaux chose writing as the way to widely communicate her views. Well known both locally and nationally, Malveaux writes weekly columns for King Features Syndicate

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new Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 206-2144

The *New Bernal Journal* is a bi-monthly (6 issues) neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with community news, ideas, issues, and events that support the Center's mission: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The *New Bernal Journal* is distributed door to door, free in Bernal Heights. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

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New Bernal Journal Staff/Volunteers

Editor Vicki Victoria
Photography Mauricio Vela, Vicki Victoria
Art Production Victoria Graphics
Distribution David Rogers & a cast of hundreds!
Contributors Mike Ceasar, Helen Heller, Mauricio Vela, Jeanette Conley, Barbara Pitschel, Jessica Murray, Clo Dow, Carmen Muñoz

Spanish Translation:

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Residents Want to Save the Bernal Branch Bank

By Mike Ceasar

After 65 years on the hill, during which its policies and politics have sometimes been the object of criticism, Bernal Heights' Bank of America branch is again being reviewed for closure - and many residents are concerned.

When the Bank of America made the announcement early last year that the branch would be closed down, the neighborhood responded with protests and petitions and the bank dictated a deal: if 1,000 new checking accounts were opened by March 31, 1993 (BoFA later moved the date up to March 11th), the Bernal Branch would remain. For August and

September, the last two announced periods, the Bernal Branch opened more new accounts (550 to date) than any other branch in the region. The Bernal Branch is the smallest of all the branches in its region.

Antoinette Lama, manager of Jinjee Florist, just opened an account at the Bernal Heights branch one month ago. She expects that bank will cut into her business hours. "I'll have to close my shop for an hour instead of five minutes to go banking," she explains.

Her father, Chuck Lama, has been doing business on Cortland Avenue for 20 years, and has been a BoFA customer for all of that time. The possible branch closure "will hurt Cortland real bad," he predicts. "There'll be less foot traffic for businesses." He will definitely move his account out of BoFA if the Bernal Branch closes. "I've already found another bank," he says.

Tony, his son, and owner of King Tut, is surprised that the branch is closing now, because, he says, "The general business climate on Cortland has been improving the last several years." Antoinette agrees that the Hill is a good place to do business "There are no iron bars on Cortland Avenue," she says.

Ken Doyle of Carter's Lock-Works has worked actively to preserve the Bernal Branch by moving his personal account there from the Glen Park Branch, opening a new savings account, and

picketing. But he has no strong attachment to BoFA, "I didn't want Bank of America to begin with. I only bank there because it's close by," he says.

On the other hand, Imre Mandoki who runs The Hungarian Sausage Factory and Bistro together with his wife Judika and who is president of the Cortland Merchants Association, feels positive about BoFA's help in the campaign to save the branch. "It's done all of the things which we've asked it to do," he said. "The bank participated in the 'Fiesta on the Hill,' bought an ad in the *New Bernal Journal*, offered 65 weeks of free checking, and donated \$1,000 to the Cortland Merchants Association."

Imre is very optimistic that the branch can be kept open, and hopes that the Merchants Association will be able to win more favorable conditions on the '1,000 new checking accounts' bargain. In particular, he would like the bank to include transfer accounts in the 1,000 total.

Imre also believes that the Bernal Heights branch is profitable for BoFA. "It generates a hell of a lot of business for them. Every time you go in, it's busy," he says.

But, if the branch closes, Imre doesn't want to allow its ATM machine to remain, either, and he also thinks that Bernal Heights people should move their accounts from BoFA if that happens. "If the bank doesn't want to participate in this neighborhood, then there's no reason why this neighborhood should participate in the bank," he says.

Another group which will find it difficult without a bank close-

- continued on page 14...

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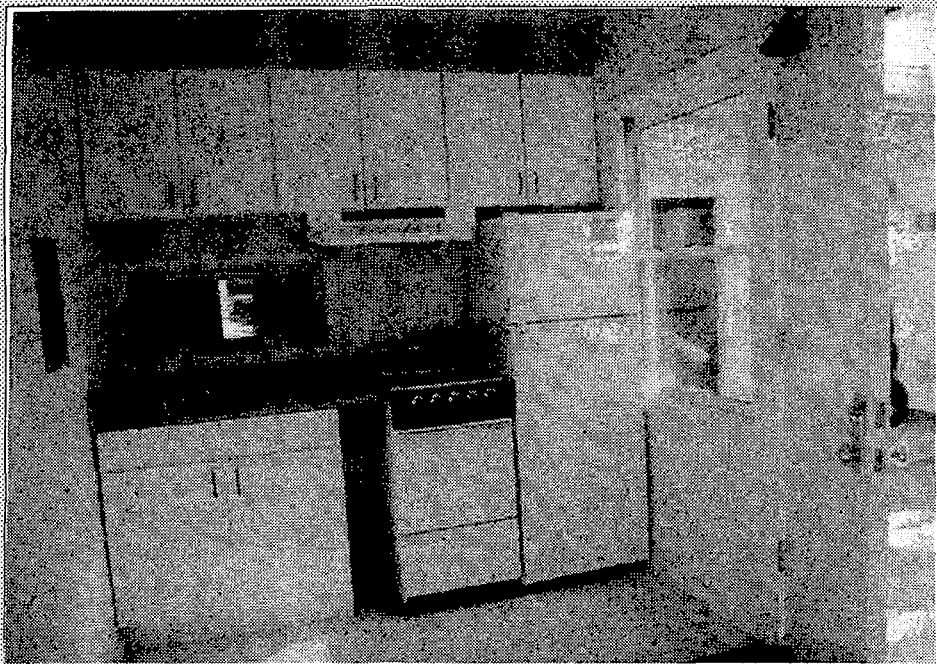
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Moultrie Street House Opens!

After a year of negotiations and hard physical labor, our first BHHC owned home for a special needs population opened in December. We want to again thank the following people who helped make the first critical phase of this innovative project such a success: Maria Rocha from the Mayor's Office of Housing; Steve Fields, Jim Harstad and Joanne Lee from Progress Foundation; Rose McNulty and Randi Gerson from Asian Neighborhood Design; our contractor John Koblicka; Mary Roque from Wells Fargo Bank; Claudette Harbor Bedord from Bank of America; Polly Marshall from Goldfarb and Lipman; and the hardworking Boards and staff of the Bernal Heights Housing Corporation and Neighborhood Center. We look forward to working with Progress Foundation in the years to come, and welcome our ten new neighbors to Bernal Heights!

- by Helen Helfer and Carol Corr, Bernal Heights Housing Corporation



Coleridge Park Homes Highlighted in Fannie Mae Publication

Coleridge Park Homes, Bernal Heights Housing Corporation's 49 unit senior housing development above the Standard Brands Paint Store, received the prestigious Fannie Mae Award of Excellence in December of 1991. It is now being highlighted, along with the other 54 non-profit awardees from around the nation, in the new publication. This informative book describes with clear text and photos a wide range of affordable rental, home ownership, and transitional/group home case studies. As James Johnson, Chairman of the Fannie Mae Board stated, "Community development

organizations have demonstrated their potential as a major part of the solution in revitalizing our communities in the years ahead...We hope this publication proves to be a valuable tool chest of "hands on" ideas and mechanisms that are working in urban settings as well as in rural areas and small cities across this country."

We gave a copy of the publication to the Bernal Library for interested neighbors to peruse and see the innovative ways non-profit housing and community groups are meeting some of the critical affordable housing needs in America. - By Helen Helfer

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St. Luke's Breast Health Center

For Women Who Want to
Protect Their Health...

If you are a woman who is 40 years or older, there is an important step you can take to protect your health. The American Cancer Society recommends that women without a history of breast disease have their first mammogram by the age of 40. Women aged 40-49 years should have a mammogram every year or two. Women who are 50 years and over should have a mammogram every year.

A mammogram is an x-ray that produces pictures of the insides of your breasts. It can detect breast disease and breast lumps that are too small and too deep to feel. Although nine out of ten women will not develop breast cancer and most breast changes are not cancerous, a mammogram is a safe and simple way of detecting breast cancer. The earlier breast cancer is diagnosed, the more successfully it can be treated. A mammogram is one of the best methods doctors have for finding and evaluating breast cancer in its earliest stages.

St. Luke's Breast Health Center has modern x-ray machines that use very small radiation doses. All of our mammogram technologists are women who are specifically trained to take breast x-rays safely and effectively. Each technologist will explain how the breast x-ray is taken and answer your questions. If you are interested, your visit to St. Luke's Breast Health Center can include video instruction in breast self-examination (BSE).

To protect your health, call today for a mammogram appointment at St. Luke's Breast Health Center. You do not need to see your doctor to make an appointment for a mammogram. However, your test results will be sent to your doctor. If you do not have a doctor, St. Luke's Physician Referral Service can help you find one you can trust and who understands your needs. Call St. Luke's Physician Referral Service at 821-DOCS.

Call 641-6545
for a mammogram appointment

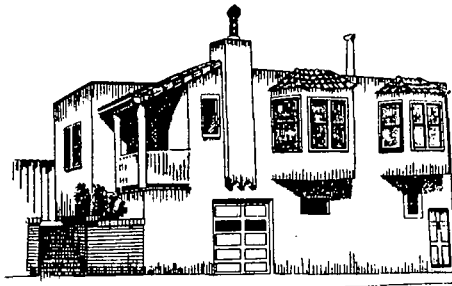


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Save the Bank-

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the Bernal Branch. Helfer decided that Martin's letter was unacceptable and assessed that there had been gross miscommunication within BofA, "It's a classic case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. It is not clear about who is the decision maker." Helfer is now attempting to meet with the top decision makers at BofA and is encouraging her staff, the Cortland Merchants, seniors and neighbors to continue their fight to save the Bernal Branch.

Upon learning of the scheduled closure of the bank, many Bernal residents opened new accounts or transferred their existing ones to the Bernal Branch to help the community. But many others were hesitant to support the BofA corporation because of its political practices - specifically BofA's support of the Boy Scouts. In a letter to the BHNC questioning the community organization's support of BofA, Bernal Resident Tim Curbo

wrote, "BofA has openly supported the homophobia of the Boy Scouts...[they] have stated that the Boy Scouts are now not discriminating. That's wrong and they know it." Curbo drove his point home by also writing, "If the Scouts excluded Latinos, African-Americans, Asians, the disabled or women, would BofA have reversed its decision? Would you support them?"

Helfer acknowledges that the BHNC's in a very difficult situation as a leader in the community encouraging its residents to open a BofA account, "On one hand, we very much want to keep the Bernal BofA branch open," she wrote in a January 13th letter to BofA, "But we also oppose your support of the Boy Scouts...we want to go on record opposing any aid to any agency which discriminates, and specifically to any further support of the Boy Scouts until such time as they clearly demonstrate fairness for all scouts and leaders."

Mauricio Vela, BHNC Center Director added, "Although we oppose the BofA funding of the Boy Scouts, the BHNC believes that it is important to support the Bernal Branch as part of our long

term efforts to revitalize Cortland Avenue and retain accessible services for the senior citizens of our community."

Both DeSoer and Shaffer have made efforts working with the BHNC and the Bernal community towards keeping the branch open. DeSoer attended community meetings and arranged several free checking account offers to encourage residents to open new accounts and help the community meet its goal. Shaffer also participated meetings with neighborhood leaders and became active in community events to help the neighborhood's campaign. Shaffer secured a \$1,000 contribution to the Cortland Merchant's Association to help beautify Cortland Avenue and put holiday shoppers in the buying mood during the holiday season with Christmas Banners.

Bernal Open Space member Lisa Steadman is grateful for Shaffer's assistance in helping her group receive an environmental grant award. "Jacqueline put a lot of effort into connecting me to the corporate levels of BofA. Because of her help, we were given an award for the Eugenia Step Walk." Peter Berg of Planet Drum also



Imre Mandoki accepts a \$1,000 check to benefit the Cortland Merchants Association from BofA Bernal Branch Manager, Jacqueline Shaffer.

recently received an environmental grant award through Shaffer's assistance. Proposals for the awards could only be submitted by BofA staff members. When Berg located Shaffer at the Bernal Branch and asked her for her help, she did not hesitate. Her nomination of Planet Drum resulted in a \$1,250 grant

award to continue their Green City Project. He remembers her work when she was a manager in his Diamond Heights branch, "She's so friendly and has always been very neighborhood oriented."

- By Vicki Victoria

Why Do We Want to Save our Bank?

"If you want the Bernal Branch to stay open, we need to reach that magical 1,000 new account number. We need you to open an account now."

- Imre Mandoki, Owner, Hungarian Sausage Factory & President, Cortland Merchants Association

"The Bank is a vital, essential part of our community. They've given us great service since we began banking there in 1927."

- Fr. James O'Malley, Pastor, St. Kevin's Church

"Businesses need a place to go and and seniors need to feel safe. Without the bank, the neighborhood would not seem like a whole community."

- Nancy White, Owner, Wildside West

"I need this bank. It's hard for me to get around. The bank's close to my home and the people there are nice."

- Grace Williams
Bernal Heights Senior Program
Advisory Council Vice-President
69 years old

"You have to have a bank or you don't have a well rounded neighborhood. In order for Bernal Heights to grow and improve, everyone has to support the community by opening an account to keep the bank here."

- Lester Zeidman
Owner, Good Life Groceries



You can make a difference for our community.

We need 450 new checking accounts opened before March 11, 1993, in order to meet the 1,000 new accounts goal to keep the Bernal Branch open. We need your help.

Bernal Heights Branch - Bank of America
433 Cortland Avenue
622-4045

A Message from the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

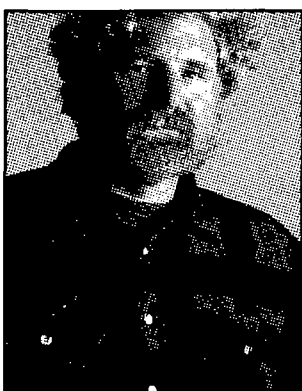
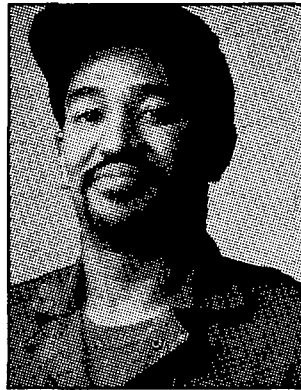
Neighborhood Action:

How You Can Help Keep Our BofA Branch from Closing:

1. Open an Account Today.
2. Ask a family member or friend to open an account.
3. Transfer your BofA account from another branch (even though BoA isn't counting transfers, we are, and will continue to count them in our negotiations with the Bank).
4. Write to the President of the Bank and demand that the Bank remain open:
Richard M. Rosenberg,
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
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Box 37000
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Phone: 953-7963
Fax: 398-8264
(Remember, this Branch opened more accounts last fall than any other Branch!).
5. Stay in close touch with Mauricio Vela at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center for the latest news and actions (206-2140).

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Join the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

- continued from page 1...

volunteers. Just to highlight some key accomplishments in 1992:

- For the second year in a row, prevented the Bernal Public Library from being downgraded to a "Reading Clinic."
- Organized seniors, Cortland merchants and neighbors to stop Bank of America from closing the Bernal BofA branch.
- Initiated a Bernal Gang Prevention/Youth Outreach project targeting out of school youth.
- Served over 236 youth through the Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program and the Private Industry Council's

Summer Employment program, and an additional 20 young adults through our own Job Development Program.

- Our growing Senior Program served 466 seniors last year with nutritional, social and educational programs and continued the S.N.A.P. (Senior Nutrition Assistance Program) grocery bag delivery and distribution serving 120 low income and homebound seniors per month.

- Organized the annual Cortland Ave Clean-Up with great participation from the Cortland Merchants Association, the Peralta/Mojave Block Club, and many hard working neighbors.



The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's MYEEP and STYEEP youth programs provided job experience for dozens of neighborhood youth. Youth received valuable training and experience working afterschool and in the summertime at a variety of job sites such as community centers, non-profit agencies and health centers.



A rich diversity of people and ideas: Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center members, staff and board members gathered for the 1992 Community Congress in March of last year. Held at the Neighborhood Center, dozens of residents cast their ballots to elect new board members and also voiced their community concerns.

- Co-sponsored the Bernal Heights Mayor's Town Hall Meeting at St. Kevin's Church

- Organized weekly Volleyball & Basketball nights at the Bernal Playground Gym (but we could do with more players!).

- Co-sponsored the Bernal Heights 2nd Annual Board of Supervisors Candidates Forum at St. Anthony's Church.

- Provided technical assistance to the Cortland/Bocana Neighbors organizing their 1st annual Garage Sale/Youth Outreach event which was a great success and raised \$600.00 for the Bernal Elders Support Team (BEST).

- Worked with Junipero Serra Elementary to begin an

Afterschool and Enrichment program, and collaborated with Paul Revere Elementary to implement the school based integrated social, health, & mental health services' Healthy Start Program.

- Provided technical assistance to the new Precita Valley Coalition to force the S.F. Housing Authority & S.F.P.D. to commence critical services in the Bernal Dwellings Public Housing Development and the surrounding community.

- Produced the Fourth and largest Annual Fiesta On The Hill celebrating the diversity of Bernal Heights and raising critical funds for the Neighborhood Center.

- Distributed a total of 755

Christmas Toys at Paul Revere Elementary School, and the Alemany & Holly Court Public Housing Developments, and contributed to the distribution of 55 Christmas baskets at the Bernal Dwellings Public Housing Development.

Our annual meeting (called the Community Congress) will be held on Saturday, March 13th from 10:00am -12:00pm at St. Anthony's Church at Army and Folsom Streets. This is an important opportunity for all BHNC members to come together, vote for new BHNC Board Members, and work on our 1993 Bernal Agenda. A multi-cultural potluck lunch will follow our meeting. All members will receive a special mailing in early March on the



Members of the Bernal Heights Senior and Youth Programs, as well as dozens of community volunteers, designed and assembled a float to represent the neighborhood San Francisco's famous Carnaval Parade last year. The float, entitled "The Many Faces of Bernal" had a multicultural and intergenerational theme with seniors and youth dressed in colorful clothing and costumes representing the ethnic diversity of Bernal Heights.



The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center produced the "Fiesta on the Hill," a fourth annual celebration of the ethnic diversity and artistic talent of the community. Hundreds of Fiesta participants enjoyed, arts & crafts, community information booths, dance performances, foods, children's activities and games at the festival held in the Bernal Playground in October, 1992. Highlighting the Fiesta was live rock, Latin, Rhythm & Bules, and soul music by local bands filled the air and set the festive mood for the day.

Congress and we hope each of you can attend.

Please note that in order to vote for candidates at this Congress, we must receive your membership form no later than **Friday,**

March 5th at 5:00pm. Also, if you or someone you know would like to run for the Board, please call our office at 648-0330 and we'll send you an application - or feel free to stop by the office for one. The deadline for Board applications is **Friday, February 19th at 5:00pm.**

Our Mission is: "To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." We continue to welcome your support in making this mission a reality in the months and years ahead.

See you in March!

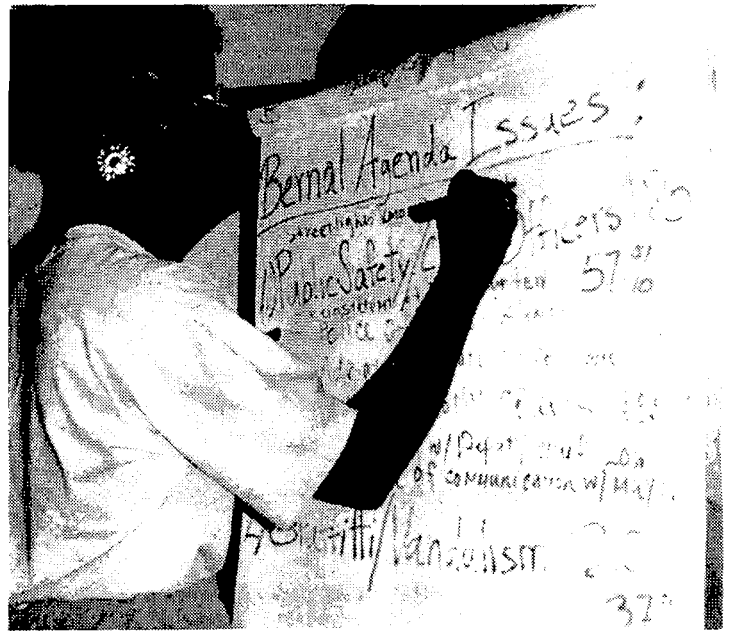
Bill Sorro, *President*

Helen Helfer,

Executive Director

Mauricio E. Vela,

Neighborhood Center Director



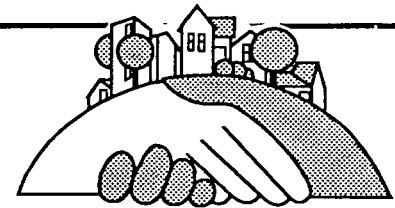
The "Bernal Agenda" campaign was created by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center to learn and organize the concerns and needs of the neighborhood. Over 500 Bernal residents responded with their input and the top five issues gave direction to and became the focus of the BHNC's work: 1) Increase of public safety 2) Keeping the Bernal Library Open 3) Reduce graffiti/vandalism 4) Drug Prevention/Education 5) Create and Support Affordable Housing.



Neighborhood youth participated in the Graffiti Paint Out with the Precita Valley Association in August, 1992. The BHNC helped many neighborhood groups by organizing neighbors around community issues and concerns.



The BHNC's Senior Program provided hundreds of community elders with a wide range of services including a daily lunch program, social activities, educational presentations, material aid and senior information and referral.



Join the BHNC! Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

Our Mission:

To empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights.

As a member who lives in Bernal Heights, you are eligible to vote for the BHNC Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, receive special mailings and meeting notices, participate in our services and activities, and have a say in shaping the future of Bernal Heights!

My annual membership dues are enclosed. I subscribe to the mission and goals of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Race/Ethnicity (optional): _____

Date _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- ☐ \$ 15 Regular
- ☐ \$ 5 Senior
- ☐ \$ 5 Low-income
- ☐ \$ 1 Youth (to 17 & under)
- ☐ \$ 20 Business/Organization
- ☐ \$ 50-100 Sustainer

I am interested in working on:

- ☐ Senior services/activities
- ☐ Youth jobs/outreach activities
- ☐ Community organizing
- ☐ New Bernal Journal
- ☐ Fundraising events
- ☐ Membership development
- ☐ Other

How did you hear about BHNC?

Please return membership application to:
Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94110

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center/Housing Corporation

BERNAL AGENDA ACTION SURVEY

NAME: _____ RACE/ETHNICITY (optional): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONES: _____ (day) _____ (night)

ISSUES: I will work with the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) to address the following issues (select as many as you're willing to work on):

- ☐ MULTI-RACIAL/ETHNIC ISSUES
- ☐ CITY SERVICES:
 - ☐ Recreation and Parks ☐ Beat cops/Public Safety
 - ☐ Library ☐ Bernal Elementary Schools
 - ☐ _____ (list any other)
- ☐ CORTLAND AVENUE revitalization
- ☐ AFFORDABLE HOUSING.
- ☐ SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING (e.g. for people with AIDS, disabled)
- ☐ PUBLIC HOUSING (e.g. Bernal Dwellings, Alemany, Holly Court)
- ☐ CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES:
 - ☐ Substance abuse prevention ☐ Gang prevention/Youth outreach
 - ☐ Youth employment ☐ _____ (list any other)
- ☐ SENIOR CITIZENS
 - ☐ Services & Programs ☐ Senior Outreach
- ☐ COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION/Graffiti removal

ACTION: I will take the following action/s with the BHNC to address my issue:

- ☐ JOIN the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center/RENEW my membership.
- ☐ ATTEND meeting with public or corporate official.
- ☐ HOST meeting at my house.
- ☐ ATTEND planning or committee meeting.
- ☐ GET 5 neighbors to complete a Bernal Agenda Action Survey.
- ☐ ATTEND the BHNC Congress on March 13th, 1993
- ☐ DISTRIBUTE the New Bernal Journal on my block.
- ☐ _____ (list any other)

Return this survey to the

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC), 515 Cortland Avenue, S.F., 94110 • 206-2140

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME CARE

Furniture stripped and refinished: Excellent work quickly done, e.g., dresser w/mirror \$150, with pick-up & delivery. Jim, 621-4390.

Handyman - repairs, painting, building shelves, decks, fences. References, reasonable rates. Harry Irving 781-1483.

Window Repairs: Replace broken glass, ropes, and putty. Small carpentry and household repair jobs. Free estimate. I am always on time. City Window Service. 337-9327.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Tax preparation, accounting services. Friendly CPA specializing in small businesses & individuals. Reasonable rates. 1/2 hour free consultation. 10% discount with this ad. Jack, 826-2958.

Music Lessons by Percussion teacher/performer. No previous knowledge necessary. Individuals or group lessons. Children/seniors welcome! 695-1920, Erik.

Moderne Graphics/Desktop Publishing. Newsletters, brochures, business cards, catalogs, menus, t-shirts, letterhead, logos, newspapers, ad design. Free consultation. 282-7955.

The Traveling Mechanic: Tune-ups, brakes, general repairs, foreign and domestic, used car evaluations. 18 years extensive experience, all work guaranteed. \$40 per hour, house calls. Georgio, 647-3403. Licensed and certified.

Custom upholstery and/or slipcovers. Excellent work quickly done, photos & references. Jim or Kris, 621-4390/824-1180.

Income Tax Preparation Very reasonable wages only \$25.00. Federal, CA. Estimates given. Questions answered. 824-0441.

RENTALS/REAL ESTATE

Office space for rent; available for practitioners of alternative healing arts (bodyworkers, chiropractors, therapists, etc.) Reasonable rates, good location. For more information call 285-7346.

Why rent when you can own your own home? Bargain foreclosures available to qualified buyers. Contact Art at Foreclosure Network, (415) 435-1409. No agents, please.

Bargain Foreclosure. \$40K below market value! Large 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, 2 car garage, view, in good S.F. area. \$260K. No agents. Contact Art at Foreclosure Network, (415) 435-1409.

Room for rent wanted. 2 mature Latina women seek housing in Bernal. Can pay \$400 for a shared room. Will consider exchange of housework or childcare for rent credit. Nic, 206-2142.

Mucho snow! Ski lovers! Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Ski Squaw, Alpine, Diamond Peak. Large kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, steam/sauna room, livingroom with fireplace, 2 decks, garage, all appliances & laundry. 282-7955.

PET CARE

Does Rover need training? Exercise? A ride to the vet? Want to be sure Fluffy is content while you're away? Positively Pets can help! Training, problem solving, pet sitting, geriatric care, exercise, transportation. 10 years experience. Bonded. References available. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

FOR SALE/WANTED

For sale: Electric, pale yellow stove in excellent condition. \$100 or best offer. Call Darlena: 476-6601 days, 285-5395 evenings.

Cash for furniture: Household items, rugs, jewelry, taxidermy & collectibles. One item or household. Quick courteous service. 621-4390 or 824-1180.

HEALTH

Nurturing & Therapeutic Body work by certified massage therapist practicing Swedish, Shiatsu and deep tissue. Excellent for pain release and stress reduction. Also offering Rosen Method body work. Call Rose Bay, 641-5209.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Experienced Home Health Aid (20+ years), offering light duty home care, and companionship to elders. Call Ann between 4:00 - 9:00 p.m., 821-6915.

Experienced childcare available seven days/evenings a week in my home. Lisa, 647-6599.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer dog walker sought for elderly Bernal woman. "Bear" is a sweet, medium sized dog, but his owner can no longer walk him a couple of times of week. Call Lurilla, 648-1868.

Volunteer needed to deliver grocery bags to homebound, low income elderly in Bernal Heights. A mere 2 hour commitment each month will make a difference for many senior citizens in our community! Vicki, Bernal Heights Senior Program, 206-2145.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ONLY 20¢ per word!

20 word minimum. Hyphenated words count as 2 words. A phone number counts as 1 word. Placement order of an ad is at random at can not be requested. If you desire a tear sheet after publication, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and include a \$2.00 handling fee with your payment. If we misprint your classified ad and the error affects the value or content of your ad, we will repeat a corrected version in our next issue. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY! Send ad and complete payment to:
New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland Avenue, SF, CA 94110

Bernal Heights
YEAR ROUND APPOINTMENTS
REASONABLE RATES

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501 CORTLAND AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

(415) 641-4922
RES. (415) 993-6811



Off.: (415) 285-2021

STATE FARM
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LARRY DE VISCHER
Agent

3579 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94110



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Bernal

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- We're always glad to take the time to answer your questions about medicines.
- Check our prices, service and delivery against Walgreens!

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FOR THE
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3/19/93

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Heights Neighborhood Shopping Guide

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\$10.00 Off Smog Test

Coupon expires 12/31/93

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Complete oral exam

X-rays as needed

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Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30-2:00 pm
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Between The Mission and Bernal Heights

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ingredients



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San Francisco, CA 94110

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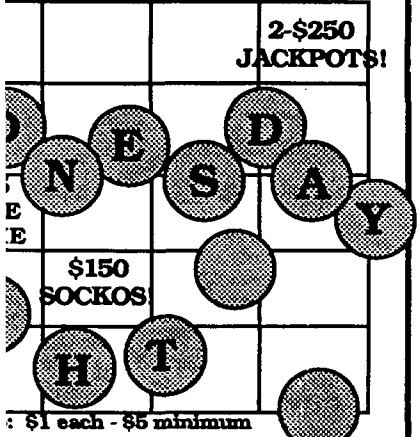
prepare traditional Hungarian sausage,
daily entrées, fresh pastries & salads to take
home. We also offer an espresso bar,
Caffè Trieste coffee beans, fresh bread from
Patisserie Française and imported
Hungarian wines, cheeses & specialty foods.

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2-\$250
JACKPOTS!



\$1 each - \$5 minimum
1pm • 1ST GAME 7:30pm
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mes - Good & Good Good Neighbors

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CAPPUCCINO...ESPRESSO...PASTRIES...AND MORE!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

634 CORTLAND
PHONE 647-6448

Youth and Senior News

Auction & Live Show on the Hill

Neighbors young and old are invited to share their singing, dancing, musical and other talents on March 21st at the "Auction & Live Show" at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.. The community showcase of talent will be featured at a fundraising auction to benefit the Bernal Heights Senior Program.

Auction items include dinners for two, antiques, plants, gift baskets, appliances and more. Auction items donated to the event are still being accepted. For more information call 206-2145.

Free Tax Help For Seniors

It's tax time again, and senior citizens are encouraged to file their tax forms as soon as possible. The Volunteer Tax Assistance Program is offering free tax form preparation at various sites throughout San Francisco.

Many older persons who lived in San Francisco are renters, and therefore, eligible for the renter's credit which is a part of the State of California Personal Income Tax form.

For locations of free assistance for seniors, call Senior Information & Referral 626-1033.

Aging Sucesssfully

The Free and Easy Method

Older adults can take charge of their bodies and understand that their actions and roles can be the key towards keeping healthy and being well. Developed and taught by instructor Diane See, "Aging Sucesssfully" teaches seniors to practice new ways to health and relaxation by bringing harmony to the body, mind and spirit.

Each class includes practice in slow and easy movement exercises designed to develop relaxation and lightness throughout daily activities. The class will also help to develop flexibility in joints, and increase energy and stamina. Adults 60 years and over can attend any or all of the following discussions on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Bernal Heights Senior Program at 515 Cortland Avenue. This free class is offered by the S.F. City College Older Adults Program.

2/10 Staying younger longer by breathing better. Better breathing exercises.

2/17 The importance of exercise and what are the best kinds.

2/24 Principles of good eating and drinking. Healthy recipes.

3/3 Looking good. Posture and self-image.

3/10 Knowing who you are. Building self-esteem.

3/17 Thoughts and attitudes. Thinking peace.

3/24 Taking good care of yourself. Music, dance, laughter, play.

Children, Youth and Families

- continued from page 1...

order to bring about positive changes for our Children, Youth and Families.

Individuals who have agreed to be a part of this coalition represent the diversity that exists within the community. The Children, Youth and Families Coalition consists of people who live and work in Bernal Heights. The following is a list of the coalition members: Fay Farrar, a long-time resident of Bernal and a Bernal Playground Improvement Committee member; Betty Dillon, a parent and a BHNC Board member; CPOP Officer Howard Weathersby; Mauricio Vela, BHNC Center Director; Gretchen Iverson, a Bernal resident; Andrew Scott, Executive Director for the Mission YMCA; Sheriff Michael Hennessey, a Bernal resident; Lisa Kaborycha, a parent and a Bernal Playground Improvement Committee member; Warren Cane, Principal for Junipero Serra Elementary School; Maggie Donahue, Montcalm Block Club President; Laura Dominguez, BHNC MYEEP (Mayor's Youth Education and Employment Program) Coordinator; Bob O'Neil and his 13-year old son Morgan O'Neil; Imre Mandoki, President of the Cortland Avenue Merchants Association; Sergeant Frank Hutchins of the Sheriff's Department, a Bernal resident; Pat Norman, a resident and Director of an AIDS Outreach program; Michael No-



Santa (played by Bernal resident Donald Pipkin) visited dozens of anxious and excited school children at Paul Revere Elementary School in late December. The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (BHNC) provided a total of 755 toys to the school and the Alemany and Holly Courts Public Housing Developments during their annual Toy Give-a-way. Sharing the spirit of the season, the BHNC also contributed funds to bring 55 Christmas baskets to tenants of the Bernal Dwellings Public Housing Development.

lan, a resident and Executive Director for the SF SERV-A-THON Program (a project of the SF Conservation Corps); Marie Kelly, Healthy Start Coordinator for Paul Revere Elementary School; Susan Cervantes, Director of the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center; Jochen Kottgen, a resident and a Bernal Playground Improvement Committee member; Glenn Eagleson, a Bernal resident and Director of the MYEEP Program; Starlette Jones, Elementary Student Advisor for Paul Revere Elementary School; Mary Foy, a long-time resident of Bernal and the Senior Program Assistant; and Guiliana Milanese, a parent and resident.

The role of the coalition members will be to help empower individuals within their commu-

nity and to mobilize and bring people together in order to address emerging issues that effect the Children, Youth and Families of Bernal Heights. One of the first tasks of this coalition will be to administer a needs assessment survey. This survey will be used to help define the problems which exist in our neighborhood, to help identify possible solutions and, to find different approaches to implement the most appropriate strategies.

How and why is all of this occurring in Bernal Heights? The answer is NIT-AMP. NIT-AMP brings together nine neighborhoods (Bernal Heights, Diamond Heights/Glen Park, Haight Ashbury, Hayes Valley, Japantown,

-continued on page 12...

The Bernal Heights Senior Program & The Bernal Heights Youth Program invites you to our annual

Soul Food Dinner

In Celebration of Black History Month

Friday, February 19, 1993
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5 Seniors, Youth
\$8 Adults



Featuring the Gospel song, talents and words of community youth and seniors.

For tickets call: 206-2145



Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco

Bernal Heights

AUCTION & LIVE SHOW

On the Hill
★★★★★



Items to be Auctioned :

- Antiques • Artwork
- Dinners • Furniture
- Jewelry • Plants
- Household Items
- Appliances • Collectibles
- And much Much MORE!

Featuring the community talent of neighborhood folk, children, youth and seniors!

- VICTOR & THE VICTORINAS • Senior dance performance
- St. John's Educational Threshold Ctr.: MO FRESH KIDS
- A Play about the Rain Forest DRILL TEAM
- Precision Drill Exercises
- THE PINCH •
- Rhythmic Acoustic Originals
- JOSE & ENRIQUE •
- Mexican Folk Guitar & Song
- AND MANY OTHERS! •

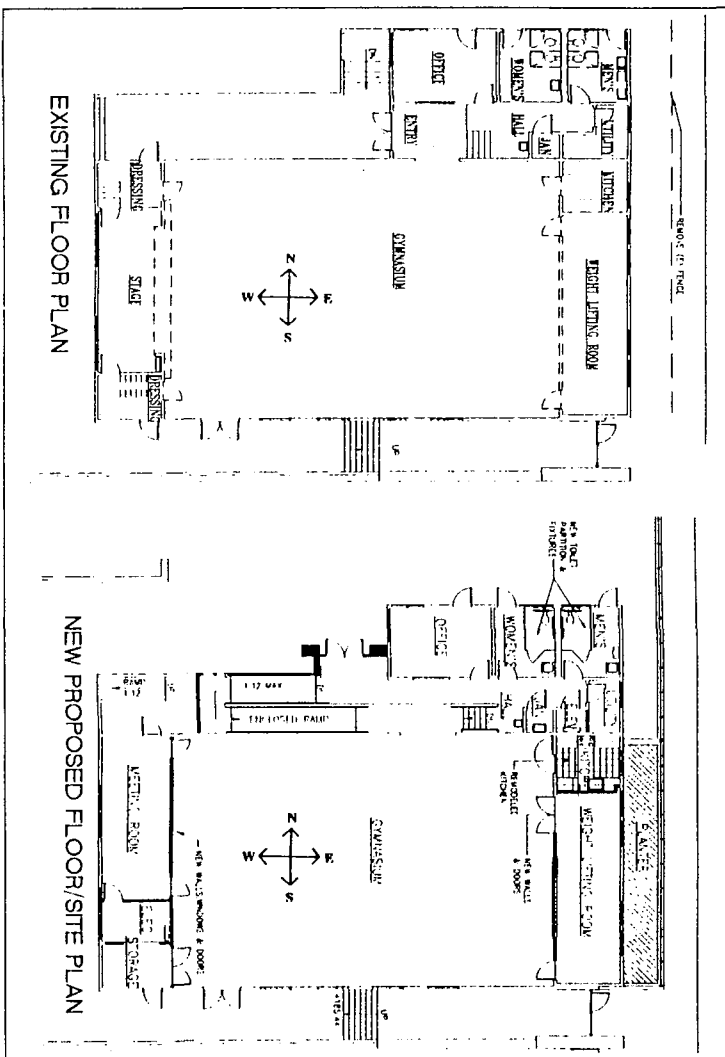
MARCH 21, 1993

• Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. • ADMISSION FREE! •

A Fundraising Benefit for the Bernal Heights Senior Program



Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco • 206-2145



Bernal Gym rehabilitation floor plans. Top: Proposed floor/site plan. Bottom: Existing floor plan. Plans will undergo further Rec & Park and community review and approval before construction begins.

Rec & Park

- Continued from page 1...

night basketball, teen video night, ping pong, and add weight lifting to their late night program. Currently, St. Mary's is in the

process of transforming one of their old locker rooms into a weight room and have just purchased weights and machines to furnish the room. Director Joe Medina will be coordinating the St. Mary's Teen Center and you can reach him for more informa-

tion at 695-5006. The entire city-wide coordinated effort is scheduled to begin during Easter break although some sites have begun offering parts of their programs. For contact Lorraine Lampkin, Rec & Parks Teen Centers coordinator at 666-7028.

In other Bernal Heights Rec. & Park news, the second set of floor plans for the rehabilitation of the Bernal Gym are shown on this page. The plans include: the demolition of the stage which would be replaced by a meeting room with plexiglass windows on the east wall, expansion of the kitchen making it handicapped accessible, remodeling of the existing weight room with the addition of plexiglass windows on the west wall, and an enclosed handicapped accessible ramp located at the no. west end of the gymnasium. There will also be building facade improvements primarily on the west side of the building facing Cortland Avenue. The plans need to be reviewed and brought before the Rec & Park Commission's Planning Committee and will then be brought back to the community for one more review. Robert Nist, Nelson Szeto, and Andrew Maloney are the three architects from the Bureau of Architecture working on the design. The floor plan was based on input from community meetings held in the Bernal Gym on May 9th, August 24th, and December 20th. A final meeting will be held within the next two months before moving on to the construction phase. For

more information on the rehabilitation call Tim Lillyquist of Rec & Park at 666-7080.

In other Bernal Playground news, Rec. Director Dereck Crenshaw has fielded an 11 & under and 15 & under basketball team in the S.F. Youth basketball league. This is the first time Bernal Playground has fielded basketball teams in over four years. The children are very excited to be representing the community in an organized league. Tuesday

night Volleyball & Wednesday night Basketball nights have become a tremendous success, and the community is ready to request an additional week night of service. Don't hesitate to join in the community activities at Bernal Playground or St. Mary's Rec. Center. Anyone with any leads to weights (new or used and especially dumbbells) for Bernal's weight room should contact Dereck at 695-5007 or Mauricio at 206-2140. •

* * * Help Wanted * * *

Para-professional Senior Care Coordinator
to work with homebound elders to link with volunteer and senior services. Must be bilingual English/Spanish & have regular access to car.
15 hrs. per week.

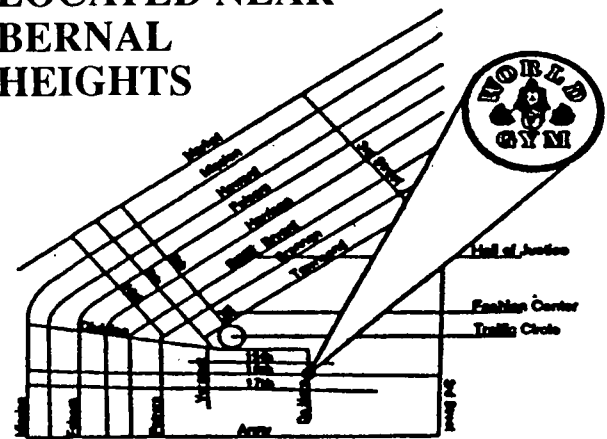
Seniors strongly encouraged to apply.

Send resume to:

Bernal Elders Support Team
301 Bocana St
San Francisco CA 94110

WORLD GYM SHOW PLACE SQUARE

CONVENIENTLY
LOCATED NEAR
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HEIGHTS



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Daily Classes From 6am-8:30pm. Try Our Step Class
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(at 16th St)

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THE BEST GYM IN SF!

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a funeral scattering at sea.
My Neptune Society Membership Card
ensures my services and my peace of mind.

I never worry,
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YES! I want information about membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

NBJ 293

From: THE WILD FLOWERS OF CALIFORNIA by Mary Elizabeth Parsons, New York, Dover Publications, 1966



which is surrounded by numerous rice-grain bulbets (see illustration). As these bulbets crumble away from the parent bulb, a new plant can grow from each one. This is the species' method of vegetative or asexual reproduction.

The other common names describe the unusual flowers, which as bell-shaped and extremely variable in color-somber, bronze-like, often checkered or mottled, in combinations ranging from purplish-brown to greenish-yellow. Bernal's plants are predominantly purple. One to four flowers grow in a single inflorescence called raceme. Bernal's plants usually produce only one or two flowers per stalk. When the plants flower, they produce seed, permitting sexual reproduction as well.

The species name "*lanceolata*" refers to its lance-shaped leaves, which participate in a very interesting part of the plant's life cycle. In early spring, each bulblet sends up a tiny solitary leaf which initially resembles a blade of grass, but which ultimately grows broad and up to a foot long. Flower stalks are never produced in the same year that the plant produces this "radical leaf." Sometimes plants continue to send up radical leaves for the first four or five years, before they ever flower. Sometimes they alternate radical leaf seasons with flowering seasons. This is probably the species' strategy for insuring that the bulb builds up sufficient stores of nutrients to support the plant through a successful reproductive flowering.

Circles or whorls of leaves up to an inch wide and two to five inches long grow around the flower stalks, which are seldom more than a foot tall on Bernal, although they grow taller in other parts of the plant's range.

Although this species is considered the most common of or fritillaries, occurring in shaded places in a wide variety of plant communities from British Columbia to northern California, it is not immediately noticeable due to its nodding flowers and camouflage color. In San Francisco, it has been reported from the Presidio, Lands End, Lake Merced, Twin Peaks, Mt. Davidson, Bernal Heights, and Bayview Hills.

On Bernal, it occurs on the shady northwest slope, in association with ferns (*Polypodium californicum*), soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), California red fescue grass (*Festuca rubra*), and other native wildflowers, where it blooms from February to April.

You are invited to join our work parties at 11:00 a.m. on the third Sunday of each month to see these harbingers of spring and other native species, and to help with weed control and the restoration test area. For further details call me at 282-5066. •

Bernal Hilltop Natural History

Mission Bells

By Barbara M. Pitschel

Although Bernal Hilltop is a beautiful and interesting place at every time of the year, it is at its most spectacular during the height of the wildflower blooming season, February through May. After the dry dormant months, we can look for the first appearance of some of our favorite flowers.

Fritillaria lanceolata, a member of the lily family (Liliaceae), has been given many common names which combine to describe its appearance and growth characteristics. Over the years it has been variously known as "mission bells," "checker lily," "bronze bells," "rice root," and "purple rice-bulbed fritillary."

The last two names describe its growth habit. The plant overwinters as a shiny, white, conical bulb,

Library News

• **Resolve To Read In 1993.** Attention All you adult readers of Bernal Heights. Starting on Thursday, January 21st, at 4:00p.m., we will convene our reader's group in the meeting room downstairs at the library. We plan to meet once a month, reading a title in advance of the meeting and then discussing it. On the 21st we'll decide what books and meeting time, please call Jean at 695-5160. Bernal's hours during the week are: 10:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesday, 1-9p.m. Wednesday, 1:00-6:00p.m. Thursday-Saturday; Closed Sunday-Monday.

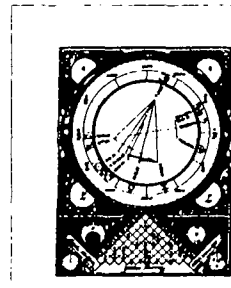
• **What's New?** Coming to your local library soon! P.D. James' *The Children of Men*; Susan Griffin's *Chorus of Stones*; Robert Sliverberg's *Kingdoms of the Wall*; and for horror fans, Peter Straud's *The Throat*.

• **The Library's closed?** If you've been to the branch recently, you noticed we were closed on Friday, Jan 15th. This closing was due to budget cuts. Library users can expect all library services to be closed one Friday a month through June 1993. Staff are voluntarily taking these dates as furlough days to help resolve the library's fiscal crisis. Please stay tuned! •

Astro Rap

by Jessica Murray

1993 is a banner year for planetary changes. The conjunction in the sky of the distant planets Uranus and Neptune hits three times: Feb. 2nd, Aug. 19th, and October 24th, these dates are like temporal profound retrologers have year to bring. We pate in our own out old father institutions and tional ideas.



Meanwhile, opened with the going retro-em the military, which was subjected to a revolutionary review (gays' role legitimized) right at the time the cycle began.

Mars stopped opposite the Pluto in the chart of the U.S.A., suggesting the country will be looking deeply at it's plutocratic roots. It is the horror in

Somalia that is impressing the theme upon us now. In April the transit will be back, and we may face and transform the dark side of extreme want elsewhere - Jessica Murray, 626-7795

Julianne Malveaux-

continued from page 1...

and the Sun Reporter. She also appears twice monthly on the pages of USA Today. This work is in addition to the speeches that she gives across the country and the numerous boards that she sits on nationally. "You have to believe in your voice and you have to believe that you have something to say," says Malveaux, member of the N.A.A.C.P. Board of Directors and trustee of the

National Child Labor Committee.

Malveaux says that the primary conflict of her life is that of the writer, who can sit at her computer forever and that of an activist, who can sit on the streets forever, "I always have to try and fight to balance them. Sometimes one is more in control than the other. But I wouldn't be happy just being one or the other."

Malveaux's impressive career includes that of an academic, scholar, journalist, television and radio commentator, "I don't ever separate the fact that I'm an African-American from anything I do

- it is part of my identity. And this brings an enormous amount of questioning of the system." Because of this, Malveaux's journalistic work focuses on economics. She feels that economics is a basic thing African-Americans must always deal with, "Even when you look at the most skilled African-Americans, you'll always find a difference in their unemployment rate. The unemployment rate now is 14.6% for African-Americans and about 7.2% for whites. People will tell you to work hard, get an education, but even among physicians, you'll find unemployed black physicians at a two to one

ratio against whites. Now, granted there aren't too many unemployed doctors, but when there are, it's more likely that they are black."

Malveaux says that when she experiences writer's block at her computer, she just looks up at the picture on her wall of her great-grandmother, Addie Hawkins, for motivation, "Black women have come a very long way since 1940. My great-grandmother was a maid, as 70% of all black women were at that time. When I don't know what to write and can't get going, I remind myself that I am not on my knees scrubbing noth-

ing, cleaning nothing." She also reminds herself that her great-grandmother had eight children and that five of them lived. Hawkin's dream was to send all five of them to college at a time when many African-Americans didn't go to college. She succeeded in doing so and Malveaux admires her for that. From this heritage, Malveaux says, "I have responsibility to lift my voice...to be an activist in my community, a 'change' agent...to motivate people." •

By Tanisha Johnson and Vicki Victoria

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Children, Youth and Families

- continued from page 10...

North Beach, Richmond, South of Market and the Sunset) to focus on planning an action to prevent alcohol and other drug abuse in our city. NIT-AMP works with neighborhood schools, churches, service providers, business leaders, seniors, parents and youth to improve and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods. By doing so, long-term solutions can be found for those issues which we face in our communities. As the NIT-AMP Community Youth Organizer for Bernal Heights, I, along with the members of the Children, Youth and Families Coalition will be working to coordinate existing efforts to curb alcohol and other drug abuse related

neighborhood problems such as: truancy and school drop-out rates; crime and public safety; access to recreational facilities; employment opportunities; and support programs for youth.

I look forward to working with the Bernal Heights community in order to bring about positive changes for our Children, Youth and Families. We can accomplish this only if we learn to work together. Unity, cooperation, coordination and collaboration are the answers. By working together, we can and will make a difference.

If you would like more information about the Children, Youth and Families Coalition, call CLO at 206-2152 or simply come by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center located at 515 Cortland Avenue. •

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William Currie
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San Francisco, CA 94123
(415) 922-4922

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Currie's Automotive, Inc.
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San Francisco, CA 94109
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19 Gas Maxi Mart
APSI
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San Francisco, CA 94109
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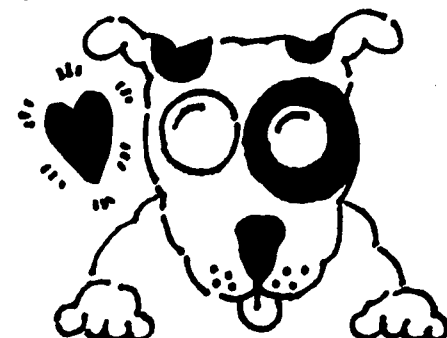
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BERNAL CALENDAR

• **Soul Food Dinner, Friday, February 19, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Annual celebration of Black History Month through Gospel song, poetry readings, speeches and homemade soul food dinner. Benefit for the Bernal Heights Senior and Youth Programs. \$8.00 Adults, \$5 seniors/youth. *Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. Tickets: 206-2145.*

• **California Poets in the Schools, 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays.** Afterschool programs for kids from 10 to 16 year of age. Local poets Grace Grafton, Makita, Jorge & others will meet with Bernal's young writers to make magic with words Display of children's poetry! *Bernal Branch Library, 500 Cortland. 695-5160.*

• **Arthritis Class, Thursdays, February 18 - March 25, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Health Center #3 will host a Arthritis course to teach participants how to manage pain, helpful exercises and medications through self-management and shared experiences. *1525 Silver Avenue. For registration and information, call Amana Panni, 468-1588.*

• **Tree Planting, Saturday, February 20, 9:00 a.m.** Friends of the Urban Forest will coordinate a tree planting in Bernal Heights west of Precita Park to San Jose Avenue. *For locations and updates, call F.U.F. at 543-5000.*

• **Mural Walks, Saturdays in February, 1:30 p.m.** Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center will conduct walking tours of Mission District murals with introductory slide talk by a local muralist. \$3.00, *348 Precita Avenue, call 285-2287.*

• **Community Congress, Saturday, March 13, 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.** The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's annual congress will focus on "The Bernal Agenda" a campaign to prioritize the needs and concern of the Bernal Heights community. Membership drive and board elections. Potluck lunch to follow. *Admission free. St. Anthony's School Cafeteria, Army at Folsom Streets. Call Mauricio Vela, 206-2140.*

• **Flea Market, Saturday, March 20, 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Indoor flea market features a variety of goods at bargain prices. \$20 for seller's tables. *Admission free. St. Kevins Old Hall, Ellsworth Street at Cortland Avenue. 648-5751.*

• **Auction & Live Show, Sunday, March 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.** Dinners for two, appliances, antiques, artwork and more will be auctioned at this fundraising event for the Bernal Heights Senior Program. The Auction will also feature community talent: singing, dancing, bands and more. *Admission free. Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. 206-2145.*

• **Champagne Bingo, Sunday, April 4, 2:00 p.m.** The St. Kevin's Women's Guild host an afternoon of champagne, sandwiches, cakes at this bi-annual fundraiser. \$30 per game pay out. Cost: \$10.00, for 14 games, 7 cards. *St. Kevins Old Hall, Ellsworth Street at Cortland Avenue. 648-5751.*

• *We will consider all Bernal activities & events for the Bernal Calendar based on content, an pace availability. Submissions deadline: 3/12/93.*

Dog Owners Welcome Two New Bernal Services

Dog owners in San Francisco often face the same problem of owning a dog in a city. That is, how are they going to always find the time to walk and take care of their pets when they work full time, go on vacations or just have too many responsibilities?

Jane Mesics of Dog-On-It Dog Walkers says that her clients find that it is important that their dog feels loved and cared about, "Each little detail, be it a biscuit after dinner or a pill after breakfast must be carefully attended to. They know their dog looks forward to seeing that special visitor that takes him out on a regular basis when they can't." Mesics says that she talks to her client's dogs so much that many people think "I'd flipped my lid." But she feels that these are the special details that most of her clients seem to appreciate and therefore feel secure about their pets being well taken care of.

In order to help neighbors who don't have time to give their dog a bath, Amando Padilla created Amando's Dog Wash to help owners give their pet good care. Padilla treats dogs to a nice, hot bath and dog owners are spared the struggle and mess of a wet, soggy bathroom. The ease of this door to door service will mean cleaner and fewer itchy pooches on the hill.

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Bob Didominco was overwhelmed by the kindness of his neighbors following the fire that destroyed his home.

Fire Victim Discovers True Meaning of the Word "Neighbor"

On January 28th Bob Didominco, neighborhood handyman who lived at 200 Cortland for over 20 years, was at a painting job down the block from his home when neighborhood kids came shouting to him, "Bob! Your house is on fire!"

Running to his home, he could only think about was saving his cat, "I tried to run

inside, but the heat singed me everywhere." Didominco said it took about 20 minutes for the arson suspected fire to completely gut the inside of the house.

Losing his beloved cat and his belongings to the fire, Didominco reflected, "I felt so devastated...I just wanted to lose myself and go away. But after everyone came to my side, I felt like living again."

"Donna Roberts of Brown Bear Realty closed down her business that day to help me get things done. She even gave me the keys to her office and let me sleep there and use its kitchen. That was so special because I didn't know her that well and had just started a painting job there that morning."

Didominco's landlord, Al Leone, came to examine the childhood home that his grandparents built in 1907, now badly damaged and burned. "But even he (Leone) consoled me first and made sure that I was alright...and this is the place where he grew up as a kid."

Overwhelmed by the care that people around him displayed, Didominco was touched unselfish giving of his neighbors, "The woman who lives across the street cleaned out one of her rooms, without me knowing, and invited me to stay there. John Carter at Carter's Keys rescued my surviving aquarium tank of fish and took them over to S.F. Pet & Aquatics for safe keeping. The firefighters called the American Red Cross who then put me up at a hotel and gave me money for food."

After having so many offers of places to stay, Didominco will continue to live in Bernal, "I thought that I was going to have to leave the neighborhood, but my landlord decided to rebuild the house." Reflecting on the incredible care, generosity and kindness shown by his neighbors, Bob remarked, "This just doesn't happened too much nowadays. But everyone in this neighborhood is wonderful and just sticks together. I love it here and want to thank everyone so much."

- By Vicki Victoria

Residents Want Bank

continued from page 2...

by will be senior citizens.

Julia Yim has had an account at the Bernal Branch for as long as it has been there. She's found service to be "fine" and knows and likes the employees. If the branch closes, she and other seniors will have to ride two different buses to get to 29th and Mission Street Branch, and that will be difficult. "Sometimes, you don't feel well," she says. But, Julia will not switch banks even if BofA leaves the neighborhood.

Celia Rodriguez was eating lunch at the Bernal Heights Senior Program. She said that she has banked at the Cortland Avenue location since 1947 and

likes its services. Its closure would be difficult for her because she has trouble walking.

BofA's customers will not be the only ones sorry to see it leave Cortland Avenue. Jacqueline Shaffer has only managed the Bernal Heights branch for six months, but she likes the neighborhood a lot, "especially its diversity."

Ric Bebe, press contact for BofA, said that the bank believes it can continue to serve the neighborhood well from its 29th and Mission location. He also said that the potential "bank consolidation" is not necessarily related to the merger with Security Pacific. "We are continually evaluating all of our branches and markets," he explained. According to Bebe, the Bernal Branch's prospects for survival "simply boil down to getting those 1,000 checking accounts."

Accounts transferred from other branches don't count "because they aren't new accounts with Bank of America."

Jeff Bachman, Fiscal Manager for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, doesn't believe that the 29th and Mission Branch will be able to serve Bernal Heights customers well. "The distance, is over half a mile, much of it being steep, is too great a distance," he says. Bachman also questions whether the 'branch consolidation' is justified. "The Bernal Branch has never lost money, it just doesn't make as much profit as they'd like," he believes. "A bank is essential for a successful commercial area." Bachman also stated, "In the merger negotiations, the bank promised not to create any new low income areas without service by consolidating branches. I intend to hold the bank to their word." •



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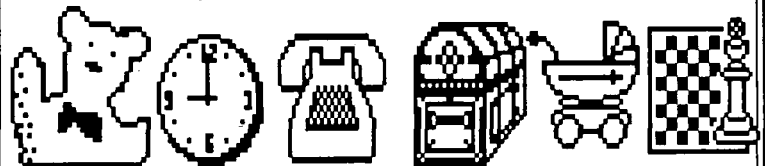
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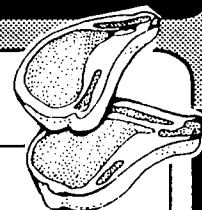
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